

the United States in recognizing the month of October as Hindu heritage month. The 8th Congressional District is home to many followers of this uniquely pluralistic religion, and I wish to celebrate the Hindu community's valuable contributions to my district and to our state and country. I believe this acknowledgment is especially timely, given the disturbing rise of prejudice and racism in this country, including Hinduphobia as manifested in hateful speech and violent acts perpetrated against Indian-Americans and Hindu houses of worship.

The Hindu religion dates back millennia and has profoundly influenced both ancient and modern cultures. Its message of religious tolerance, non-violence, and the universality of the human experience was introduced to this country in 1893 by Swami Vivekananda in his landmark address at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, Illinois. Swami Vivekananda's words of peace and his emphasis on self-perfection and service to others sparked interest in the Hindu faith and contributed to the growth of Hinduism in the United States. His spiritual understanding had a profound influence on one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century, Mahatma Gandhi, who in turn inspired the important work of one of our nation's most revered leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr., to advance the cause of civil rights in the United States.

The Hindu faithful in our country include physicians, lawyers, scientists, economists, philosophers, artists, academics, business leaders, government officials—and Members of Congress. They are guided by Swami Vivekananda's call to service and respect for all religions and all people. Madam Speaker, I know all Americans of goodwill share these beliefs, and today I would like to celebrate the work of the Hindu faithful in building bridges of understanding between all Americans, for their important contributions to our economy and our cultural and civic life, and for the part they play in creating our wonderful and distinctively diverse American experience.

HONORING SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the honorable Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON in celebration of Soroptimist International reaching its centennial on October 1, 2021. A global volunteer movement with over 72,000 members in 121 countries, Soroptimist, later named Soroptimist International, was established to advocate for gender equality and human rights, a mission that it has stayed true to this day.

Founded in 1921 when women were still not permitted to join service organizations, Soroptimist began as an 80-member club in Oakland, California with a vision for a world where women and girls were provided the resources and support to achieve their individual and collective potential. The club's first project was Save the Redwoods, confronting logging companies, lobbying the legislature, and rallying public support to designate a portion of the forest as protected land, which remains today.

Within 5 years, the organization, renamed Soroptimist International, grew to 15 clubs throughout the United States. In 1924, the first Soroptimist club in Europe was founded in Paris and fueled the establishment of clubs throughout the continent. Several federations were established across the globe from Australia to Africa, leading projects to support refugees, secure housing for the impoverished, assist individuals with disabilities, and provide vocational training for women and girls. Uniting these federations, Soroptimist International Association was awarded consultative status in 1950 by the United Nations Economic and Social Counsel, an honor reserved for about 3,000 non-governmental organizations worldwide. UNICEF also granted the organization consultative status for service projects assisting children in 1966.

Today, Soroptimist International includes 5 federations worldwide: Africa, the Americas, Europe, Great Britain and Ireland, and the South West Pacific. Their current priorities towards achieving gender equity include strategically addressing child marriage, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, rights of older women, migration, and human trafficking.

Madam Speaker, Soroptimist International has continued to be an innovative leader in promoting human rights and gender equity worldwide. Through the unwavering dedication of its many members and its continually growing network, the organization has never lost sight of its original purpose to educate, empower, and transform the lives of women and girls across the globe. Therefore, please join me in congratulating Soroptimist International for a century of inspiring work, and in wishing them many more years of success.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JON
PRATT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF
NONPROFITS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Jon Pratt on the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. During his more than three decades of nonprofit advocacy work and leadership, Jon has made an enduring impact for residents of Minnesota and has uplifted the important and necessary work of nonprofit organizations across the country. As founder of Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, one of the largest statewide nonprofit associations in the country, Jon created a space to meet the needs of Minnesotans through the growing nonprofit sector—a space which today serves over 2,200 member organizations across the state.

A lifelong Minnesotan, Jon began his career as a lawyer in 1977, and in the following decade gained valuable experience through several different jobs. He first organized a statewide lobbying program during his time at Minnesota Public Interest Research Group and traveled the Midwest while learning the ins and outs of foundation work as the regional field director for The Youth Project, a founda-

tion providing grants and assistance to grass roots community organizations. And as campaign manager for future U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone's bid for state auditor, he learned how critical it is to engage government to serve all Minnesotans. He then served as executive director of The Philanthropy Project where he led a coalition advocating for an increase in philanthropy efforts that benefited disadvantaged people across the state of Minnesota.

It was these diverse experiences that led Jon to convene a group of local leaders of nonprofit organizations to establish the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) in 1987. Only the third such trade association of its kind in the United States, MCN was launched to fill the increasing needs of nonprofits throughout the state, with the core belief that sharing information and working together across areas of common interest will be mutually beneficial and uplift the nonprofit sector as a whole. Today, MCN hosts classes and networking opportunities for both new and established organizations, helps groups secure grants and other funding, facilitates a jobs board to connect employers with those seeking a job in the sector, and advocates for public policy changes at every level of government.

During his time with MCN, Jon was fundamental in helping elevate the status of Minnesota's nonprofit sector by establishing standards of excellence for nonprofits, co-developing Grant Advisor—a rating tool for those seeking grants that provides free and honest feedback about the grant process, creating training programs and materials to strengthen the service work of organizations, and conducting years of research on the nonprofit sector to promote transparency and positive change in the field.

I am grateful to have worked with Jon for many years on key state and federal policy issues as he led the way in advocacy work on behalf of the Minnesota nonprofit community. MCN was the largest employer group to support raising the state's minimum wage, they worked with the Minnesota Legislature to secure a non-itemizer charitable tax deduction, and through MCN's Minnesota Budget Project, led the charge to expand Minnesota's working family tax credit. Jon's advocacy also spreads beyond the immediate needs of the nonprofit world as he has been a constant voice for public good by opposing state voter ID bills and supporting human rights and equitable social programs.

Jon has truly been a champion for nonprofits across the Nation and while his tremendous leadership at Minnesota Council of Nonprofits will be missed by many, his lasting contributions are sure to inspire the leaders and public servants of the future. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the exceptional career of Mr. Jon Pratt.

HONORING RICHARD STAHL

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Richard Stahl, who passed away on January 3, 2021. A community leader and LGBTQ+ advocate, Richard

was a fearless champion for LGBTQ+ causes and fought tirelessly to bring us one step closer to eradicating HIV. Today, Arizona is a better and brighter place for his presence among us.

A New Jersey native, Richard had a profound love for Arizona. Put best by Richard himself, "I will retire here someday." After moving to the Grand Canyon state, Richard immediately rooted himself firmly giving all his time, heart, and soul to the betterment of our community. Casa Ben Dita—his beloved McCormick Ranch home—became a gathering place for some of the premiere LGBTQ+ organizations in Phoenix—particularly Lambda Legal, the oldest national legal organization dedicated to working for the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community. Year after year, Richard inspired so many and had a unique sense of bringing people together for the common good.

When Aunt Rita's Foundation brought the AIDS Walk back to Phoenix, Richard was one of the first to jump in and support its success. He also was relentlessly active in Aunt Rita's Red Brunch to celebrate World AIDS Day and joined the Foundation's Red Purse Club, generously donating his time, talents, and treasure year after year.

His commitment to LGBTQ+ rights and the eradication of HIV extended beyond excellence in service and volunteerism. Together, with community partners, Richard helped form permanent financial legacies for the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS. His generosity transformed the Southwest Center from a small organization to a thriving pillar of our community. Richard showed that by giving, anyone and everyone can change the world.

Today, the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS is known as Arizona's premiere leader for financially accessible, culturally competent, LGBTQ+ friendly healthcare. For his lifetime achievement, he received the Southwest Center Philanthropist Lifetime Legacy Award and was named a Partner for Life. In his honor, the Center named its clinical trials division the "Richard P. Stahl Research Wing".

As we reflect how long we have come in the work to eradicate HIV, there is no doubt our progress was shaped by Richard Stahl. Arizona owes him a debt of gratitude, and he will be deeply missed by his friends, family, and all those he uplifted with his positivity and unwavering support.

Madam Speaker, in this spirit of remembrance, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Richard Stahl. I thank Richard, and Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING FEMALE LEADERS WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS HONORING AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and highlight the work of some extraordinary female leaders in our country who are being honored by She Leads America as "Christian Women of Distinction."

For my constituents back in Michigan, I try and lead by example through my faith and commitment to public service. But many times,

people don't look to Washington for their role models. Fortunately, it does not take long to find others guided by their strong moral compass, faith, and commitment to selfless public service. Today, I honor some of these women, who through their tireless dedication, have shattered glass ceilings and touched the lives of countless individuals around the world. For my part, I remain committed to defending religious freedom here in Congress to ensure each of these women, and all of my constituents, never have to compromise their religious beliefs in order to conform to whatever the trending culture is at the moment.

Kathy Branzell serves as the President of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Dating back to 1775, the National Day of Prayer encourages Americans to pray for the people and today includes millions who attend 30,000 observances organized by 40,000 volunteers all over the United States. Kathy is also the founder and president of Fellowship and Christian Encouragement (FACE) for Educators, and the author/coauthor of five books on prayer.

Marilyn Hickey is a TV ministry pioneer for women, with her TV and media ministry broadcast around the world. Marilyn is a peacemaker, teacher, and someone who has personally shared her message of God's love and forgiveness in 138 countries, and her lectures on healing and the Bible have broken records for the largest public meetings ever held in Egypt and Pakistan. In addition, her organization has actively been involved in meeting humanitarian needs around the world. Marilyn Hickey Ministry partners have helped millions of individuals overcome setbacks and practice Biblical principles.

Commissioner Jolene K. Hodder is the highest-ranking female officer in the Salvation Army in the USA. She has a passion for leading women to Christ and then equipping, motivating, and preparing them for effective ministry. Jolene is the author of two published books and has worked across America and overseas, serving all people without discrimination, wherever, whenever, and however she can.

Dr. Alveda C. King, is a civil rights activist, speaking out on issues that face society today. She founded "Speak for Life", a ministry mobilizing generations of pro-life advocates that will boldly speak for life. She is the daughter of the late civil rights activist Rev. A. D. King and his wife, Naomi Barber King. Currently, Dr. King is a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, serving as Pastoral Associate for Civil Rights for The Unborn and Priests for Life. During the years of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King's family home was bombed in Birmingham, Alabama, in the heat of the struggle. "Daddy's house was bombed, then in Louisville, Kentucky his church office was bombed. I was also jailed during the open housing movement," she recalls.

Dr. Jane Hansen-Hoyt serves as the President/CEO of Aglow International, a Christian women's organization of more than 200,000 women. The organization includes global leaders who annually impact 17 million people. As an international speaker and author, she challenges us to view each circumstance of life from a Heavenly perspective. She also serves on The Steering Committee of The American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI).

Penny Young Nance is CEO and President of Concerned Women for America (CWA), the

nation's largest public policy women's organization. Prior to CWA, Penny served as a Special Advisor for the Federal Communications Commission, where she advised the Chairman and Commissioners on media and social issues. She is a graduate of Liberty University, where she currently serves on their Board of Trustees.

Bodie Thoene, is a world-renowned author of 75 historical novels as well as an award-winning screen writer and movie producer. Her books have sold 35 million copies in 30 languages. She has won 8 ECPA Gold Medallion awards for Fiction, more than any other author in history. Bodie is, above all, a follower of Jesus Christ. She is an American Patriot and fervent supporter of the Nation of Israel, a wife, mother and grandmother. Her movie, I'm Not Ashamed, the true story of Rachel Joy Scott, first martyr of Columbine, was a finalist for GMA Dove Awards Most Inspirational film of 2017.

Reverend Eve Nunez is a nationally recognized faith-based leader most known for her work as a child advocate and Hispanic community organizer. Her decades-long commitment to these communities has earned her a National Service Award from President George W. Bush, the Martin Luther King Jr. Award from President Barack Obama, the Street Saint Award from Governor Janet Napolitano, and many more.

Peggy Nienaber serves as the Vice President for Faith & Liberty overseeing the ministry programs that build strong alliances on Capitol Hill. Peggy also serves as President of the Capitol Forum Club, a meeting held inside the U.S. Capitol. Peggy was also a NGO Liaison for the United Nations and participated in the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Shirley Dobson, is the honorary "Mom of America." Through her partnership with her husband, Dr. James Dobson, in "Focus on the Family" and "Family Talk" broadcasts, millions of families have received the support and encouragement they need to navigate their daily lives. Under her leadership and strong faith, the U.S. National Day of Prayer enjoyed massive growth. Millions of Americans now take their responsibility seriously to pray for government leaders.

Madam Speaker, I hope these women know full well the impact they have had on countless lives. These women are trailblazers, and the example they have set will be followed by people of my district, and many other Americans, for years to come. I thank each of them for their passion and commitment. This honor is well-deserved.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROVIDENCE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Providence United Presbyterian Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania on its 175th anniversary. According to the original charter, it was the first Presbyterian church to be founded in the Lackawanna and Upper Valley. The occasion will be marked with a festive celebration and service on Sunday, October 3, 2021.